

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN BYLINER FROM
LONDON NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 12 HEADED "SADAT POINT-
EDLY SPEAKS OF DATE SINAI PACT WITH ISRAEL RUNS OUT."

PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT SAID TODAY THAT HE WAS
DISAPPOINTED WITH THE "VERY HARD ISRAELI LINE" AND NOTED
THAT THE CURRENT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT EX-
PIRED IN 14 MONTHS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY SECSTATE CYRUS
R. VANCE ON ISRAEL'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, EGYPT-
IAN LEADER SAID HE REMAINED HOPEFUL U.S. WOULD BE ABLE
TO BRING ABOUT GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, "DESPITE FACT THERE
IS VERY HARD ISRAELI LINE."

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MR. VANCE, WHO MADE QUICK VISIT TO JORDAN, SYRIA AND EG-
YPT ON HIS WAY TO LONDON FROM ISRAEL, MET WITH EGYPTIAN
LEADER FOR ABOUT HOUR AT VILLA NEAR MILITARY AIRFIELD
AT GYNAECOPOLIS, HALFWAY BETWEEN CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA.
MR. SADAT HAS BEEN SPENDING SUMMER AT ALEXANDRIA AND CON-
FERRED WITH MR. VANCE 11 DAYS AGO AT START OF SECRETARY'S

MIDDLE EAST MISSION.

"LET US HOPE THEY WILL REACH CONCLUSION THAT IT WILL NOT SERVE THEM AT ALL, THIS HARD LINE,"MR. SADAT SAID.

HE THEN ADDED, SOMEWHAT BY SURPRISE: "MAY I REMIND ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN OCTOBER 1978."

EGYPTIAN LEADER THEN CHUCKLED, APPARENTLY AMUSED BY REACTION HE KNEW HIS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE ON REPORTERS. MR. VANCE, WHO STOOD NEXT TO MR. SADAT, ALSO LAUGHED, SOMEWHAT NERVOUSLY.

OBVIOUS IMPLICATION OF MR. SADAT'S REMARK WAS IF THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT BY OCTOBER OF NEXT YEAR, EGYPT WOULD FEEL FREE CONSIDER MILITARY EFFORT TO REGAIN TERRITORY.

AGREEMENT MR. SADAT REFERRED TO WAS INITIALED BY ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ON SEPT. 1, 1975, AFTER INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC SHUTTLE BY SECSTATE HENRY A. KISSINGER. AG-

REEMENT WENT INTO EFFECT OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR.

ARE MANY PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE ASPECTS TO AGREEMENT. IN PUBLIC TEXT, EGYPT AND ISRAEL AGREED THAT U.N. PEACE-UNCLASSIFIED

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KEEPING FORCE DEPLOYED IN BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THEM IN SINAI "IS ESSENTIAL AND SHALL CONTINUE ITS FUNCTIONS AND MANDATE SHALL BE EXTENDED ANNUALLY."

AGREEMENT ALSO SAID ONCE IT WENT INTO FORCE IT WOULD REMAIN SO "UNTIL SUPERSEDED BY A NEW AGREEMENT."

BUT IN PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING THAT BECAME KNOWN AT THE TIME, MR. SADAT WOULD PROMISE ONLY THAT EGYPT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY SUPPORT RENEWAL OF SINAI FORCE FOR THREE YEARS. THUS IN OCTOBER 1978 EGYPT WOULD NO LONGER BE BOUND TO EXTEND FORCE, ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT MEAN IT WOULD NOT DO SO IN FACT.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH MR. VANCE SUGGESTED MR. SADAT HAD BEGUN CALLING ATTENTION TO OCTOBER 1978 DATE TO PUSH ISRAELIS INTO DROPPING OPPOSITION TO DEALING WITH PLO OR TO ALLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST BANK PALESTINIAN STATE.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE ASSERTED EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ARE MUCH WEAKER TODAY THAN THEY WERE IN OCT-

OBER 1973, AT TIME OF LAST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. AT SAME TIME, ISRAELI FORCES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY. AND IS NOT THOUGHT LIKELY THAT EGYPT COULD MOUNT OR EVEN WOULD THINK OF OPENING NEW MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL.

MR. VANCE, BESIDES RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM MR. SADAT, ALSO

WAS WARMLY PRAISED BY KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, WHOM HE

VISITED FOR ABOUT HALF HOUR THIS MORNING. PRESIDENT HAFEZ EL-ASSAD OF SYRIA CONFERRED WITH MR. VANCE AROUND LUNCH-TIME FOR TWO HOURS IN DAMASCUS.

ALTHOUGH AMERICANS WERE SATISFIED WITH REACTION OF ARAB
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LEADERS, IT IS CLEAR THE FAILURE TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY IN TALKS IN ISRAEL WAS UPSETTING TO AMERICAN SIDE.

IN LONDON, WHERE MR. VANCE'S PLANE LANDED ABOUT 9 P.M., SECRETARY WILL CONCENTRATE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS TOMORROW AND SATURDAY, RETURNING TO WASHINGTON SATURDAY NIGHT. CHRISTOPHER

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